

Peace and Harmony.

Peace and harmony are greatly to be desired, but it is very important that the peace be upon a permanent foundation, and the harmony such as will tendure. Sometimes people rejoice in harmony which proves exceedingly transient and uncertain. It is certainly pleasant to have quiet, and to be free from controversy and disturbance; but it is important to know how this quiet is attained, and what are to be its results. If in the nation, peace is obtained by the rule of tyrants, who make a desert and call it peace, or by the overthrow of liberty and the sacrifice of every right, such peace is by no means an unmixed good. If in the community peace is obtained by the absolute domination of some man of stiff neck and arbitrary character, peace may cost more than it is worth.

If in the church peace is obtained by the triumph of the wrong and the triumph of the right, woe be to those who rejoice in such peace. If in the denominational organization, peace is obtained by driving out men who are intelligent enough to perceive wrongs, and fearless enough to rebuke them, such a peace is likely to end in fresh strifes and troubles. For the time, those who have achieved such a victory may rejoice in their triumph, but their peace will only last till "rogues fall out" and quarrel among themselves, or until other men become sufficiently intelligent to question the propriety of exceptionable acts and courses; or till a new generation of strong conscientious, and intelligent workers arise, who will protest against wrongdoing, and in turn be driven forth, so that the people can have peace, leaving behind the knaves who work iniquity and control affairs; the stupid who think that everything is right if it is in the regular order; the men of damaged reputations, who keep quiet for fear their own misdeeds will be exposed; and the time-servers who are always zealous for party which has loaves and fishes to distribute.

Peace which comes by falsehood, deception, and injustice, and peace which comes through winking at iniquities, justifying wrong-doers, and crushing out those who stand for the right never will be permanent. Men may rejoice for a time in such a peace, but their glorying is not good—their rejoicing is only for the moment. "There is no peace to the wicked," and there can be no peace while wrongs prevail, unless it be the peace of death, the quiet of the tomb.

When Joram saw Jehu driving in his chariot, he said, "Is it peace, Jehu?" and he answered, "What peace, so long as the whoredoms of thy mother Jezebel and her witchcrafts are so many?" 2 Kings 9: 22.

When the slain witnesses for God lie unburied in the great city where also our Lord was crucified, then "they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another, because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth." Rev. 11: 10. They have peace but the earthquake follows it!

Ahab thought to have peace when he had stoned Naboth, killed prophets, and digged down altars; but there was no peace for him. Drought and death swept over the land; but when Ahab met Elijah he said, "Art thou he that troubleth Israel?" And he answered I have not troubled Israel; but thou and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and thou hast followed Baalim." 1 Kings 18: 18.

The only peace which is worth having and will abide, is the peace which comes from "the very God of peace; but there can be no peace from God until everything which God abhors is cast out. "There is no peace for the wicked saith my God." Violence and injustice may bring peace for a little while but it is the peace of hypocrisy and the peace of decay and the peace of corruption and the peace of death. It is that absence of pain which tells that disease is ending in dissolution.

Woe unto that people that are contented with a superficial peace; who are willing to have peace with sins unconfessed, with falsehoods unretracted, wrongs uncorrected, and injustice unrebuked.

There might be such peace as that, if the Almighty were dethroned, and Satan ruled; but so long as God lives and rules the world, so long we may be sure that there can be no permanent peace upon such a basis. That God who has rocked the world

with earthquakes, swept it with floods, and poured fire and brimstone on its guilty cities; and who still sitteth in the heavens, judging from his throne and destroying the devices of wicked men; will never grant them permanent peace in this world except upon the basis of that wisdom which cometh from above, which "is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy."

—THE CHRISTIAN.

The Bible and How to Use It.

Following is a very meagre and imperfect synopsis of what Mr. Moody said upon this important theme:

"Let me say in opening this subject that we want to believe the Bible—not portions of it—but the whole of it. You hear on the right hand and on the left people who say they believe part of it. If you throw away part of it, ere long you will throw away all. There is no part of the Old Testament that Christ has not put his seal upon, and if I doubted the story of Noah and the flood, I should have reason for doubting the truth of the sermon on the mount. Then you ask me: 'Do I believe the story of Lot's wife?' Christ says, 'Remember Lot's wife.' Is the servant greater than the Master? Every portion of the Old Testament has Christ's seal upon it, marking its truthfulness. Scientific men have discovered that it is impossible for a whale to swallow a man, and that it would be a big job for a fish to swallow a man's hand. God, who created the world, can make a whale big enough to swallow not only one man, but a whole boat load of Jonahs if he so desires.

Let me show how Christ sets his seal upon the truths of the Old Testament. Matthew contains thirty quotations from the old books and Luke twenty-five. In the four Gospels are eighty-nine chapters that contain 140 of these quotations. Corinthians contains over fifty, and the book of Revelation 240 solid blocks of Old Testament quotations. The only infidel I ever heard say that he had read the Bible through could not quote to me a single verse. A very common saying is, 'I cannot believe in the supernatural things of the Bible.' Well, if you throw away the supernatural you have nothing left; you will throw away everything—Jacob's ladder, Moses smiting the rock, the manna of life to the Israelites, and all other miracles told in the Word of God. Before Christ was born, supernatural things occurred. When he was born, when he began his ministry, and when he died, supernatural events occurred. Thank God, we do not worship a dead Jew, for Christ still lives.

If you want spiritual life you get it in this book. You come to this convention and hope is renewed but the new life will be dead inside of ten days without study the Bible and find living water there. They tell you that the Bible is dying out; why, the sun shines on more Bibles to-day than it ever did before. More Bibles were printed in the last eight years than in the eighteen hundred years preceding. An infidel scoffing at the Bible is like the dog that barks at the moon. The moon shines on. Do not think that the word of God is going out of date; for it is just coming in. The word of the Lord endureth forever. The Scriptures cannot be broken. The word of God is true. If you cannot understand some things, say that you believe them, and you may reach the understanding further on. A few years ago the Western territories were supposed to be worthless, but one day a miner's pick struck the Comstock Lode. Look at the result to-day. Some time the pick will strike deep into the mystery of some of these Bible truths, and reveal the hidden wealth. If you want an interesting Bible-study take up the fulfilled prophecies. Take up Babylon, the New York, Paris, or London of that age, and look at its destruction. Take up Egypt, that, it was foretold, should never lift up its head, and see how the nations were crying, 'Keep down your head.' Look at the destruction of Nineveh, Judah and Jerusalem.

The next point is, how to study the Bible. I will tell you how to get at it. The best book to interpret the Word of God is the Word of God itself. Get a Concordance. I did, and I began to study Bible Topics. If any man has a flippant, fluent tongue, he can get along, but the Word of God is

what aids the preacher in doing solid work. Some preachers do not believe in sudden conversion. If a man went to one of these and confessed that he had been systematically robbing his employer, the minister would not advise him to reform by stealing half as much next year, and a quarter as much the year after. No, he would say, 'reform immediately.' The Word of God tells us to repent. Of course there must be a growth in grace. A child must be born before it can walk.

The Bible teaches us the way of eternal life. No coffin-maker can make a coffin large enough; no grave-digger can dig a grave deep enough to hold eternal life. This is a privilege that God promises to those who believe in him. I do pity these Christians who are doubting all the time. They get up in doubt, eat in doubt, go to their business in doubt, go to bed in doubt, live in doubt and die in doubt. God doesn't teach this. You see some Christians who go around with long faces and downcast looks. Christians should have their hearts filled with joy and not with doubts and fears. Some people want a token of God's promise. Joseph wanted a token and the angel struck him dumb until after the child was born. There are too many dumb Christians to-day. Faith is what is needed by these doubting persons, and you will find faith in studying the Word of God.

Our ministers don't teach the word of God enough in our churches and Sunday-schools. I say this in a spirit of love and not in criticism. Until I was seventeen I had to study an old question book with the answers in it, and had never seen the Bible except when mother let us look at it sometimes to find out when she was married or when the children were born. These question books went out and question leaves came in. What the Sunday-school needs is Bible study. Then from our pulpits the ministers should feed the flocks from the word of God, and not ramble off outside of the Bible and not into physics and chemistry and geology for a subject of discourse. And so, my friends, let us read and study the word that will give us comfort and consolation and eternal life."—SEL.

The Pillar of Love.

In a certain district in Russia there is to be seen in a solitary place, a pillar with this inscription: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friend. That pillar tells a touching tale, which many of you must have heard. It was a wild region, infested with wolves, and as a little party traveled along, it soon became plain that these were on their track. The pistols were fired; one horse after another was left to the ravenous wolves, till, as they came nearer, and nothing else remained to be tried, the faithful servant, in spite of the expostulations of his master, threw himself into the midst of them, and by his own death saved his master. That pillar marks the spot where his bones were found; that inscription records the noble instance of attachment. But there is another nobler still. There is another pillar, and on it I read, "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." That pillar is the Bible—the noble pillar of Scripture—written all over with loving words, and telling of salvation.—PULPIT TREASURY.

Most men consider themselves above par, women below, and act as if the latter were in this world from necessity, not choice.

They that marry ancient people merely in expectation to bury them, hang themselves in hope that one will come and cut the halter.

Some people act as if they intended sneaking into heaven through a knot-hole and trust to luck in squaring accounts when discovered.

More hearts pine away in secret anguish for the want of kindness from those who should be their comforters than for any other calamity in life.

If some people understood human nature better, and realized their own weakness more, they would not be so broad in their censure of others.

More women die from overwork than laziness; and if some of them would bridle their tongues and save more leather, they would be happier.